

IV. Ignition Management

The Fire Prevention Battalion Chief has compiled statistics of fire prevention activities in MMU. The results are compiled in the Ignition Management Plan (IMP). The Unit Prefire Management Plan is intended to eventually replace the traditional IMP. Until then the MMU Prefire Management Plan will incorporate elements of the traditional IMP. This MMU Prefire Management Plan will be a baseline document for which future prefire management plans will be developed and expanded on. During the implementation of this plan there will be an effort to implement processes, such as phasing out the IMP.

The statistics displayed in this section of the plan will be evaluated and utilized as tools in the “Action Plan” portion of the MMU Pre-fire Management Plan. Chart 1 displays the fire ignitions by cause on SRA in MMU.

Cause Summary

The subsequent description of fire ignition causes is a result of fire reporting information on SRA in MMU and represents fires for calendar year 2003 and 2004. This information is essential for determining the types of fire prevention activities that are emphasized in the Unit Fire Management Plan.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>	201	56
<u>Undetermined:</u>	71	47
<u>Vehicle:</u>	70	72
<u>Debris Burning:</u>	40	61
<u>Arson:</u>	20	15
<u>Electric Power:</u>	15	5
<u>Playing with Fire:</u>	10	12
<u>Equipment Use:</u>	5	15

<u>Campfires:</u>	5		3
<u>Lightning:</u>	13		1
<u>Smoking:</u>	3		3
<u>Railroad:</u>	0	.	0
Total SRA Fires	453		290

Public Resources Code 4291 LE-38 Inspection Report

A portion of the Public Resources Code 4291 (PRC4291) requires a minimum of 100' of clearance for fire safety surrounding all structures on State Responsibility lands in California. This fire safe clearance has several benefits relating to wildfire protection. First, the clearance provides a "Defensible Space" for firefighters during structure protection activities. Second, the clearance reduces the potential of fire spread into the wildland should a fire burn a structure. Third, the clearance buys time and reduces fire spread from the wildland into a structure. The benefits of defensible space have been recognized by fire suppression forces nationwide. Thus, a significant effort has been invested in the inspection program. (Actual inspections are referred to as "LE-38 Inspections"). MMU has participated in an aggressive property inspection program and through this Fire Management Plan efforts may be better focused. The subsequent figures are an account of the inspection efforts exerted by MMU personnel.

There was a marked increase in inspections unit wide due to the ability to hire 4 FFI's during the pre-season to concentrate on LE-38 inspections

LE-38 TOTALS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004

BATTALION 1

Total Inspections	2465
Total Violations	33
Citations	0

BATTALION 2

Total Inspections	640
Total Violations	83
Citations	0

BATTALION 3

Total Inspections	313
Total Violations	8
Citations	0

BATTALION 8

Total Inspections	0
Total Violations	0
Citations	0

BATTALION 4

Total Inspections	1677
Total Violations	37
Citations	0

BATTALION 5

Total Inspections	2696
Total Violations	168
Citations	2

BATTALION 7

Total Inspections	42
Total Violations	18
Citations	0

Total Inspections Performed Unit Wide = 7,833
Total Violations Unit Wide = 347

Public Resources Code 4290

The Public Resources Code 4290 (PRC4290) contains requirements pertaining to new construction on SRA in California. Driveway widths, slopes, turn-around areas, and water storage requirements for firefighting forces are regulated in PRC 4290. MMU personnel are tasked with inspecting the new construction within the unit, specifically Mariposa County. Madera and Merced Counties have county employees that conduct inspections while Mariposa County does not. Therefore, the responsibility goes to the state, or CDF to conduct inspections. This task is taken seriously and there has been an effort to inspect 100% of new construction projects in MMU.

	<u>2003</u>		<u>2004</u>
New Permit reviews:	874	Madera	111
		Mariposa	490
		Total	601

Both Madera and Mariposa Counties building permits are reflected for 2003 and 2004. No report was received from Merced County.

All inspections dated 2003 were finalized in arrears for 2003. None were carried over to 2004. This should be standard practice to reflect actual statistics by calendar year.